

Patent claims

1. A conveyor dishwasher having at least one washing zone (6, 7), at least one rinsing zone (8, 9) and/or a heat-recovery device (13) and/or a drying zone (11) and/or a suction-extraction means, characterized in that openings (17, 18, 20, 21) for the suction extraction of air from the dishwasher and/or the overall quantity of an exhaust-airstream (24) can be closed and released by means of one or more closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28), directly or indirectly by the wash ware (1) via deflectable lever elements (29, 36), in dependence on the operating state of individual treatment zones (6, 7, 8, 9, 11) of the dishwasher.
2. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the capacity of an exhaust-air fan (22), and thus the exhaust-air quantity withdrawn, in a heat-recovery device (13) can be controlled in dependence on the operating state of the dishwasher.
3. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the capacity of the exhaust-air fan (22) can be controlled in dependence on the position of the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28).
4. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the capacity of the exhaust-air fan (22) in the heat-recovery device (13) can be varied via a speed-control means in dependence on the operating state of the dishwasher.
5. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the speed-control means is designed as a frequency converter or by an electric

drive of the exhaust-air fan (22) with a multiple coil.

6. A process for operating a conveyor dishwasher as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the suction extraction of air from the conveyor dishwasher takes place in dependence on the operating state of the conveyor dishwasher, being controlled directly or indirectly by the wash ware (1).
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7. The process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27) are wholly or partially closed when the washing zones (6, 7) are switched off, the rinsing zone is switched off and the drying zone is switched off, and when there is no wash ware (1) located in these regions.
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8. The process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27) are open when the washing zones (6, 7) are switched on, the rinsing zone (8, 9) is switched on and the drying function using the drying zone (11) is switched on, and when there is wash ware (1) located in these regions.
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9. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a fourth flap (28), which controls the mixing of ambient air with the overall exhaust-airstream (24), is activated in dependence on the degree of opening of the closing elements (25, 26, 27).
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10. The process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the capacity of the exhaust-air fan (22) of the heat-recovery device (13) is varied in dependence on the opening position of the closing elements (25, 26, 27).
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